

*Civilisation and Races of Southern
Italy* 423

servants, and concubines of Ibn-Jubair's faith. William's toleration was exemplified in a story that while he was once in the midst of his servants and women an earthquake was felt; the latter were struck with terror, but feared by their open prayers to reveal too openly their faith; the King, however, turning to them, commanded that each should invoke the Being that he adored.

Ibn-Jubair's informant told him, certainly with some exaggeration, that the principal as well as the lower places in the administration were confided to Musulmans; they all, however, observe the fast days in person or else compound by a fine; "this," says the geographer, "is indeed one of the mysteries of God."

In Palermo itself Ibn-Jubair found the Moslems very numerous, their mosques too many to be counted, their laws, liberty of trade, and industry, their own cadis secured to them; though the *Hutbah* (summons to general prayer) was generally forbidden, yet once a year at the great feasts it was allowed, and the name of the Abbaside khalif was then prayed for. In viewing the sights, Ibn-Jubair is struck by the beauty of the Anti-ochene's church (La Martorana), of which the

internal walls "are all one piece of gold."

From Palermo the travellers went on to Alcamo and Trapani; at the latter place they found in readiness the great flotilla, which was to be directed upon Constantinople, and which did in fact strike a great blow at the Eastern Empire,